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Message Text

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73
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00

FBIE-00 L-03 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /055 W
---------- 034766
O R 181950Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1778
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 2252

CARACAS FOR LEGAL ATTACHE

PASS TO WILLIAM HENDRICKS, NTSB, CENTRAL INVESTIGATION
DIV, AVIATION ACCIDENT BRANCH (AI-11)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, BB, CU
SUBJ: JUDICIAL INQUIRY, CUBANA CRASH

REF: BRIDGETOWN 2235 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF TODAY'S ACTIVITIES
OF THE CUBANA INQUIRY:

THE FIRST WITNESS WAS THE BRITISH WEST INDIES AIRLINES
SENIOR STATION OFFICER AT BARBADOS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
WHO HAD NOT COMPLETED HIS TESTIMONY YESTERDAY. HE
WAS QUESTIONED REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS RECOGNIZING
THE TWO SUSPECTS FREDDIE LUGO AND JOSE GARCIA VASQUEZ
(HERMAN RICARDO LOSANO) WHICH ARE BEING HELD IN
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VENEZUELA. HE WAS THEN ASKED TO IDENTIFY THEM FROM THEIR

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PICTURES IN A NEWSPAPER FROM TRINIDAD. HE RECOGNIZED GARCIA VASQUEZ.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS WITNESS, THE LAWYER FOR THE CUBANS MR. HARLEY MOSELEY, REQUESTED TO MAKE A STATEMENT. HE REFERRED TO THE CUBANS' ORIGINAL OBJECTION TO THE PRESENCE OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE CRASH WAS NOT AN ACCIDENT BUT A CRIME AND THEREFORE THE US HAS NO STATUS TO ATTEND UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF ANNEX 13 OF ICAO. HE STATED THAT THERE WAS NOW ENOUGH EVIDENCE THAT SABOTAGE HAD TAKEN PLACE AND REQUESTED THAT THE COMMISSION RECONSIDER THEIR ORIGINAL RULING ABOUT ALLOWING US PARTICIPATION.

THE COMMISSION IMMEDIATELY REJECTED HIS REQUEST AND CALLED ANOTHER WITNESS, A GROUND HANDLER FOR BWIA, WHO MET CU 455 UPON ITS ARRIVAL.

UPON COMPLETION OF HIS TESTIMONY, DREIFUS REQUESTED TO MAKE A STATEMENT, A SUMMARY OF WHICH FOLLOWS:

"THE UNITED STATES IS HERE AND HAS BEEN HERE SOLELY TO ASSIST THE COMMISSION AND ALL OF THE PARTIEIS IN GATHERING AND EVALUATING ALL THE FACTS OF THIS ACCIDENT.

"THE CUBAN DELEGATION'S INTERPRETATION OF THE INTENT OF ANNEX 13 IS NOT THE SAME AS THAT OF THE UNITED STATES; HOWEVER, EVERYONE HAS A RIGHT TO HIS OWN INTERPRETATION.

"IF THE COMMISSION DECIDES AFTER RECEIVING ALL OF THE EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS, IN FACT, AN ACCIDENT RESULTING FROM SABOTAGE, THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS ALL OF THE PARTIES TO THIS INQUIRY STAND BY TO MAKE SUITABLE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT THIS SORT OF ACCIDENT IN THE FUTURE.

"THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS ALL THE OTHER NATIONS OF ICAO ARE INTERESTED IN PREVENTING ACCIDENTS REGARDLESS OF CAUSE."

2. AFTER THIS STATEMENT THE SECOND WITNESS WAS CALLED. HE IS A GROUND HANDLER FOR BWIA AT BARBADOS WHO GAVE TESTIMONY CONFIDENTIAL

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AS TO HIS ACTIVITIES ON THE DAY OF THE ACCIDENT. HE HAD NOTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE TO OFFER.

3. THE THIRD WITNESS WAS A STATION OFFICER FOR BWIA AT BARBADOS WHO ALSO GAVE TESTIMONY REGARDING HIS ACTIVITIES ON THE DAY OF THE ACCIDENT. HE ALSO HAD NOTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE TO OFFER.

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4. THE FOURTH AND FIFTH WITNESSES WERE BARBADIAN POLICE OFFICERS BOTH OF WHOM LABELED THE BODIES FOR IDENTIFICATION AND PLACED THE BELONGINGS TAKEN FROM EACH BODY IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY. THEY SUBMITTED THESE ITEMS TO THE COURT AS EVIDENCE.

5. AT 11:30, THE INQUIRY WAS ADJOURNED UNTIL TOMORROW SO THAT THE COMMISSION COULD ASSIST RELATIVES IN CLAIMING THE PERSONAL ITEMS OF THE VICTIMS.

6. TO DATE 30 WITNESSES HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED. THE DATE OF COMPLETION ESTIMATE GIVEN YESTERDAY REMAINS THE SAME.
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